

The Dead Horse

June 2009

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park

BEE Trouble!



Bee-suited Ranger Justin Swiger, Pat Hawker helping, onlooking Ranger George Christianson.



Rangers Justin Swiger and George Christianson attempted to save the day by removing the HUGE bee nest in bushes between Raven Maintenance sites 1 and 2. To the rescue came our early morning kayaker, Pat Hawker. Dressed only in shorts, shirt, sandals and a visor, Pat bagged the hive in a pillow case and handed them back to the bee-protected-fully clothed ranger. Pat is a biologist and had knowledge of the bee's habits. But to be fair, the Rangers had already clipped away all the surrounding branches before Pat came upon the scene.

Pictures by Bob Akey

Smoke Out West



On Friday, May 8th, the sound of choppers was heard throughout DHRSP: the Smoke Out West had begun. The show of bikes, which was in the Verde Valley Fairgrounds in Cottonwood, was put on by HORSE Backstreet Choppers Magazine. It is rumored that the Smoke Out West will then take its ride across the country to the Smoke Out East in North Carolina. The reason? It's the 10th anniversary of the Smoke Out. Above are a few of the bikes on show and a biker's way of setting up camping ... AZ style.

Cart Man: Honoring Bill Lafleur!



At the volunteer meeting on May 4th, it was mentioned that without our maintenance man, Bill Lafleur, DHRSP would not have any carts. It is his superb skills that keep the pack of carts up and running. And, his devotion to the group of volunteers that earns him the proud title of CART MAN. The badge is on order Bill. Bask in the light of those who appreciate all you do for us.

Spread the Word Take a Hike and Win! National Trails Day

Explore trails in Arizona by visiting Arizona State Parks. When you visit a participating State Park between now and National Trails Day on June 6th, you can register to win State Parks merchandise! All you have to do for your chance to win is hike a trail at DHRSP and drop off a registration form. Prizes include: Arizona Trail Guides, a hiking stick and baseball hat, plus an Annual Pass and 2-Night Stay in a camping cabin or yurt.

Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

- * Jack & Robbie Bard
- * Hall & Ruth Stoddard
- * Bob & Toni Mann
- * Ed Lyon
- * John & Pat Pauly

John & Pat Pauly are new to volunteering at DHRSP, but not new to volunteering at AZ State Parks. They have been working at AZSP on and off for 5 years. They also worked at OR State Parks for 6 months in 2008, and at an RV Resort in 2007 for 4 months. They said that ALL of their volunteer experiences have been positive. A big hearty WELCOME to John & Pat!

Just wanted to let you all know that we have arrived home safe and sound. Spent three days in PA at my relatives house then went to our daughters in New York. Got home about 1 ET today. Looking forward to the summer here and really looking forward to being back in AZ in October. Gary & Sharon Munson

It has been a JOY to work with you. I look forward to the emailed newsletters and seeing you all in November. See ya! Nan & Norm Hephner

Hope you and everyone at DHR are well. We are finally installed in our summer home although we arrived back two weeks later than planned. The morning before we were to cross back into Canada, our large slide would not come in. Tom could not even crank it in. We got a service man who eventually got it cranked in and we decided to bring it home like that. But, as we could not live in it, we took it to our dealer and went to stay with friends. Thank goodness for good friends, because it took two weeks to get a new motor and get it repaired. It was good to get home and see our son and his family and our friends.

Hope you are using the compost bins, I had a whole bin full to put in my vegetable garden this spring. I should be able to plant my garden by the middle of the month. All chances of frost will be over by then. Have the chickens arrived? I would love to see the girls with them and there is nothing like fresh eggs for breakfast.

Best wishes, Anne & Tom Howe

Roving Reports: Doug Palasaari
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<http://livingreportsbydoug.blogspot.com/douglas.palasaari@gmail.com>

Dates to Remember

May

- 22-25 - ZUKs are coming!!!
- 25 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 25 - Memorial Day

June

- 1 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- June 13 - Game & Fish fishing clinic (lagoons – no fishing licenses needed, poles, bait, & tackle provided). Come have some fun fishing or help a kid catch their first fish.
- 15 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 29 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

Downed Helicopter at DHRSP



At the May 4th volunteer meeting, Manager Les Bovee, informed the group that a helicopter was downed between the Lower Raptor Hill Trail and Thumper Trail. The victims of the crash walked to DHRSP afterward, uninjured. After bushwhacking between the two trails, I took these shots at the bottom of a canyon. Bovee said about the chopper pictures: "Great shots! With the tail rotor gone it is a miracle no one was killed or seriously injured. Seldom do people walk away from chopper crashes, even when at low altitude... lb"

Carolyn Meehan



June Milestones

- (Birthdays & Anniversaries)
- 3-Judi & Keith Mangels (1961)
- 3-Les Bovee
- 5-Bob & Elsie Ross
- 6-Jette Monahan
- 8-Gary Munson
- 12-Su Cain
- 13-Jim & Jette Monahan (1970)
- 15-Bob & Toni Mann
- 18-Rob Burson
- 18-Su & Bill Cain
- 21-Pam Sanor
- 22-Dave & Carol Nank (1963)
- 23-Bill Cain
- 23-Nan Hephner
- 24-Anita Coates-Ohlhaber
- 30-Tom & Pam Sanor (1988)

VB Birding Festival

What a cute newsletter.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the event. Couldn't do it without all of you.

Barbie Hart

From the manager: Dead Horse Ranch volunteers have played a major role in the operation of the park for many years, but our current staff shortages have made volunteer contributions even more vital to park operations. The most recent example is volunteer assistance during the 24hr shifts throughout Cottonwood's motorcycle rally: "Smoke Out West". I can assure you that the weekend wouldn't have been as "uneventful" as it was without you. The evening interpretive programs (that so many of our visitors enjoy), as well as the recent events; "Gathering of the Ancestors" and the "Verde Valley Birding & Nature Festival", also result in time and effort well above what is expected. The dedication to compiling, editing, and publishing this newsletter is another example. The list can go on, but it's more than what you do, it's how you do it. The rangers and particularly the visitors to Dead Horse Ranch are truly blessed by the high standard that's exhibited everyday. Thanks for the extra effort.

Les Bovee